

Influenza Conference Call Meeting Minutes

1/15/2013

Present: Dr. Pinette, Dr. Sears, Lori Wolanski, Kris Perkins, Tonya Philbrick, Sara Robinson, Nate Riethmann, Joe Legee, Jane Coolidge

It's not too late to vaccinate!

I. Updates

- Maine is not at Public Health Emergency level currently
- National status: 47 states have widespread influenza activity
- NY and the Boston, MA area have declared PH emergencies in order to get more vaccine
- To date this season, there has been only 1 pediatric death in Maine due to the flu
- Efficacy of vaccine against flu is ~62% (60-70% is typical for the flu vaccine)
- Very important that when there is a death resulting from influenza (especially within a LTC facility) that it be properly documented
- Updated HAVBED data has been coming in ~3x a day. Overall statewide bed availability appears to be sufficient at this time
- Antiviral availability appears to be an intermittent supplier/distribution issue (i.e. supplier not adequately filling orders)
- Guidance/resources were provided by Federal CDC and FDA on how pediatric suspension may be compounded
- Vaccination continues to be strongly recommended

II. Questions/Answers

- MaineCare does not allow payment of Tamiflu unless first tested by diagnostic laboratory, is this something that can be looked into?
 - As of 1/17/2013, there is no testing requirement and no pre-authorization is required
- Are there any recommendations for restricting children from visiting hospitals?
 - Unless necessary, anyone should refrain from visiting hospitals. If the need arises visitors should use masks when visiting and also hand sanitizer
- Are healthcare facilities mandating non-vaccinated staff to wear masks?
 - Many facilities are making that recommendation as well as asking visitors to do the same
 - Some hospitals in regions are making masks mandatory

- What is the availability of pediatric Tamiflu?
 - There is currently a shortage of suspension; there are 30mg doses available in most locations. Pharmacists should visit the FDA website and/or contact the Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC) for more information and guidelines for mixing.
- When should people seek help at the hospital, is persistent fever sufficient reason?
 - A fever lasting longer than 72-96 hours in someone who has not had antivirals should consider going to the hospital.
 - Also, those individuals with significant respiratory distress (shortness of breath, etc.) should go to the hospital when those symptoms arise
- Indications of prophylaxis: who to prophylax and who to not?
 - Use in LTC facilities and with high risk patients regardless of vaccination status
 - When entire family comes in, there are good benefits to prophylax if individuals have not been vaccinated or if they have high risk conditions
 - Guidelines will be distributed in the HAN again
- When can patients with flu be transferred back to facilities?
 - After the 5 day dose of Tamiflu
 - If symptoms are decreasing, then transmission will be less
 - There are no absolutes, these are guidelines. Facilities will have to use their own judgment
- Is there any guidance for non-vaccinated staff prophylaxis with antivirals?
 - Depends on where they work and the potential for exposure to high risk patients
 - If being prophylaxed, good idea to get vaccinated at the same time
- Thoughts on why there hasn't been more push on school-based vaccinations like with H1N1.
 - MeCDC is encouraging school-based clinics, but they are based on local resources
 - Commissioner of DOE has recommended school-based clinics

III. Action Items/Informational Items

- MeCDC is encouraging "No Flu 4 You", which is standard prevention messages
- For more influenza information and vaccine availability go to flu.gov or call 211
- For pharmacist guidelines for mixing Tamiflu go to fda.gov
- For information on antiviral availability call the NNEPC at 1-800-222-1222
- To report cases of influenza please fax reports to 1-800-293-7534 or call 1-800-821-5821
- More information will be available on the MeCDC website under the 'Hot Topics' section, <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc>

Next meeting/conference call: Tuesday, January 22nd, at 3pm, 8th floor conference room